

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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R 110849Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4832
INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
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SUBJ: USSR/SIERRA LEONE FISHERIES COOPERATION

REF: (A) 76 FREETOWN 3131, (B) FREETOWN 3325, (C) FREETOWN
A-60 OF NOVEMBER 23, 1976

1. A PROTOCOL FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT PROGRAMS
BETWEEN THE USSR AND SIERRA LEONE IN THE FIELD OF FISHERIES
WAS SIGNED IN FREETOWN JANUARY 26. THE AGREEMENT WAS THE
RESULT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE "JOINT COMMISSION ON
COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF FISHERIES BETWEEN THE USSR AND
THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE," AND REPORTEDLY COVERS THE
AREAS OF CONSTRUCTION OF FISHING HARBORS, TRAINING OF LOCAL
FISHERMAN, PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR
OF FISHING EQUIPMENT AND A PROGRAM OF JOINT RESEARCH BETWEEN
THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE GOSL AND USSR ALSO AGREED TO PREPARE
JOINTLY A TEN YEAR FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PLAN. TRAINING OF
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SIERRA LEONEANS ON BOARD SOVIET VESSELS AND AT SOVIET FISHERY
INSTITUTIONS IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN LATER THIS YEAR. THE
AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BY SIERRA LEONE'S DEPUTY MINISTER OF
AGRICULTURE, A.D. SACCOH, AND V.G. LIPANOV OF THE USSR
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES.

2. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMISSION,

A BRIEF COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED AS FOLLOWS:

"THE FIRST SESSION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF FISHERIES BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE WAS HELD IN FREETOWN FROM 19TH-26TH JANUARY. THE SESSION WAS OPENED BY HON. S.A. OFANAH, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES, HON. A.D. SACCOH CHAIRED MEETING. THE COMMISSION CONSIDERED THE REPORT OF THE RESEARCH WORK CARRIED OUT BY SOVIET RESEARCH VESSELS IN THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF SIERRA LEONE AND PREPARED A PROGRAMME FOR JOINT RESEARCH INVESTIGATIONS BETWEEN THE SCIENTISTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED FOR THE RESULTS OF THE SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS TO BE USED AS THE BASIS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY IN SIERRA LEONE.

"DISCUSSIONS WERE ALSO HELD ON TRAINING IN ALL ASPECTS OF FISHERIES. THE COMMISSION AGREED TO START EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF PRACTICAL TRAINING ON BOARD SOVIET VESSELS AND THE ADMISSION OF SIERRA LEONE NATIONALS FOR TRAINING IN THE USSR LATER THIS YEAR. SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATED THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE PRE-LIMINARY JOINT VENTURE IN THE FIELD OF FISHERIES.

"AGREEMENT WAS ALSO REACHED FOR A TEN YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN FISHERIES TO BE PREPARED JOINTLY BY A TEAM OF SOVIET SPECIALIST DUE TO ARRIVE IN FREETOWN IN FEBRUARY AND SIERRA LEONEAN OFFICIALS.

THE TALKS WERE HELD IN A VERY CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE AND MUTUAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNDERSTANDING."

3. AT THE TIME OF THE SIGNING OF THE PROTOCOL, A SOVIET RESEARCH VESSEL, THE "EUREKA", WAS ANCHORED IN FREETOWN HARBOR. THE 3,416 TON VESSEL, UNDER THE COMMAND OF CAPTAIN A.A. DON, CARRIES A CREW OF 80 INCLUDING 15 SCIENTISTS AND HAS BEEN CONDUCTING A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF BIOLOGIC RESOURCES OFF SIERRA LEONE SINCE SEPTEMBER. THREE MORE RESEARCH VESSELS ARE DUE IN SIERRA LEONE LATER THIS YEAR. SAMUELS

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